

STUDIES IN RHAMNACEAE I. *Condalia henriquezii* Boldingh in
Venezuela.

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During routine curatorial work in the Herbarium of the Missouri Botanical Gardens a phytogeographically interesting representative of a genus new to Venezuela was discovered in a consignment of specimens sent for identification for the Flora of the Falcón Project.

Condalia henriquezii Boldingh is reported here as a new specific and generic record for Venezuela

According to JHONSTON (1962 and 1972) Condalia Cavallines is an exclusively American genus of arid zones habitats with twelve species in North America (Texas, Baja California, and North Mexico), five species in continental South America (Argentina, Southern Peru, and Southeast Brasil), and one species Condalia henriquezii, known only from the Dutch West Indies (Curacao and Bonaire).

When Boldingh originally described C. henriquezii from Curacao and Bonaire in 1914, it represented a remarkable disjunction in the generic range, well over 1000 miles from the nearest station for Condalia in either North or South America. The new record from northern Venezuela is only 20 miles away from the type locality in Bonaire and Curacao.

Discovery of C. henriquezii in Venezuela suggests that the species should be reinterpreted as a native of the thorn-scrub forest of coastal Venezuela which also reaches the dry offshore islands, a pattern it would share with many other species. The Dutch Islands are both geologically young and biotically depauperate, and existence of this remarkably disjunct representative of Condalia as an endemic there presented a phytogeographic enigma. That Condalia has not been collected

previously in Venezuela is hardly surprising in view of its inconspicuous flowers and the general lack of collections in this region.

Condalia henriquezii Boldingh seems to be closely related to Condalia weberbaueri Perkins from Perú and Condalia buxifolia Reissek from Brasil. Its discovery in coastal Venezuela provide appropriate representation for the genus in all of the main areas of dry habitat in the Neotropics which might suggest a more continuous distribution of Condalia through intervening regions during periods of drier climate.

In a forthcoming paper (1980) I will present a key to the Venezuelan genera of Rhamnaceae, including Condalia. Collection data are as follows:

VENEZUELA: Falcón State, Coro, médanos 1 km. norte de la Catedral. Alt. 10 m./s.n.m. En médanos con Prosopis. Arbusto 1.5-2.5 m. de alto. Flores verdes, tornándose amarillos cuando mueren y caen. Caliz 5-m. Corola ausente. Estambres 5, alternándose con los sépalos. Gineceo 2-locular, lóculos 1-blastos, óvulos basales, anátropes. 19 de Abril 1978. R. Wingfield 5322 fl. (MO.); 28 de Julio 1978 R. Wingfield 5322a fr. (MO.).

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